

Genealogy and Local History Resources at the Library of Michigan

Notes to the Researcher

The Abrams Foundation Historical Collection of genealogy materials provides varied resources for researchers to explore their family history.

The collection is shelved in open stacks on the second floor of the Library. The Library of Michigan primarily acquires genealogical materials for states east of the Mississippi River. This includes the Great Lakes, New England, Mid-Atlantic, Southern states and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Researchers using the collection should **come prepared to ask for specific information**. While staff members cannot provide extensive research, they will be pleased to assist in the use of the collection.

Additional Information

The Abrams Foundation Historical Collection of genealogy material is enhanced by other significant collections within the Library of Michigan. Resources housed in the Michigan Collection, Reference Collection, Michigan Documents, U.S. Documents, Law Library and Rare Book Collection may provide additional genealogical information. Researchers primarily interested in using the Rare Book Collection are encouraged to call ahead at 517-373-1300 to check on the availability of materials before they visit the Library of Michigan.

Policies

Circulation:

Because of in-house user demand and the fragile condition of many genealogy and Michigan materials, most of the collection is available for reference use only at the Library of Michigan. However, most materials may be accessed directly by library patrons.

Correspondence:

Due to the length of time needed for genealogical research, the staff of the Library of Michigan does not provide extensive research services.

The Library maintains a list of certified genealogists and genealogy societies who have indicated their willingness to conduct research for a fee.

Microform readers:

The Library of Michigan maintains over 40 microform readers and printers. A one-hour time limit for searching may be necessary during periods of heavy use.

Copy Cards:

For patron convenience the Library of Michigan uses copy cards instead of currency for photocopying. Debit cards eliminate the need for coins. Card dispensers and a bill changer are located on the second floor.

Photocopying:

Materials in good condition may be photocopied within the limits of current copyright laws. All photocopies are 10¢ per copy. Ask a reference librarian for assistance if you have questions concerning the condition of materials you wish to photocopy.

Shelving:

Please do not reshelv materials. Place them on the holding carts on the second floor and staff will reshelv the materials.

Catalog Information

ANSWER, the Library of Michigan's online catalog, may be searched by title, author, subject, keyword or call number. ANSWER may be accessed at computers located throughout the library, or on the Internet at michigan.gov/hal.

Resources

UMI Genealogy and Local History Collection

The Library of Michigan is the first location in the state to make this entire microfiche collection available. It includes genealogies, genealogical serials, primary sources and local histories. The UMI series consists of over 21,000 genealogy and local history titles. Researchers may access an electronic version of this resource when visiting the library.

Basic Reference Guides

The collection includes many how-to manuals and guide books for doing family history research.

Electronic Resources

The Library has several searchable databases that cover a wide range of subjects of interest to genealogists. Databases include the *African American Biographical Database*, *Ancestry Plus*, *Biography and Genealogy Master Index*, *HeritageQuest Online*, and the *Mackinac Register*.

Cemeteries

The Library of Michigan has published the *Michigan Cemetery Atlas* (1991) and the *Michigan Cemetery Source Book* (1994), which contain the locations of over 3,800 Michigan burial sites.

Census Records

Federal population census records, including the Civil War Union Veteran and Widows Census of 1890 are available for Michigan and all other states of the US through 1930. For a complete list of states, search ANSWER, our online catalog at michigan.gov/hal. Canadian census records are available through 1901.

Some Michigan state census sched-

ules and mortality schedules are also available. The Library purchases available printed and microfilm Soundex census indexes for Michigan and other states.

City Directories

The Michigan city directories are located on the second floor. The Library also has directories for major U.S. cities prior to 1860 on microfiche, and 1860-1935 on microfilm.

County Histories

Many Michigan and out-of-state county and local histories are in the collection. The Library has the microfilm edition of *County Histories of the Old Northwest*, which covers the states of Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Microfilms of county histories and atlases for California, New York and Pennsylvania are also available.

Family Histories

The collection contains thousands of individual and collective family genealogies. Published family histories are located in the Library of Congress call number classification CS 71. Over 8,000 genealogies on microfiche complement this collection.

Abrams Collection Genealogy Highlights

The Library periodically publishes bulletins to keep librarians, genealogists and local historians informed about new acquisitions and to highlight various subject areas within the collection.

Land Records

In addition to plat maps, the Library has the first purchase of Michigan land from federal and state sales on microfilm, arranged by county, township and range. Many of these have been transcribed and indexed.

Maps and Atlases

The Library acquires Michigan maps and atlases, including Michigan Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, and Michigan county plat maps. Selected maps and atlases for other states, as well as Ontario, are included.

Internet

Public workstations are available for researchers to search genealogy sources on the Internet. The Library's homepage may be accessed at michigan.gov/hal.

Military Records

The Library has indexes to many state, colonial and other military records from every period of American history up to World War I.

Newspapers

The Library has over 3,000 Michigan newspaper titles on microfilm. All newspaper titles are listed on ANSWER, the Library of Michigan's online catalog.

Periodicals and Newsletters

The Library subscribes to 150 genealogical and historical periodicals. The periodicals are shelved alphabetically at the end of the genealogy stacks on the second floor.

Vital Records

The Library acquires transcribed Michigan birth, death, marriage, tax, probate, land, town, church and cemetery records, as well as those of other states.

Michigan vital records and indexes are available on microfilms. Please see page 22 for a list of the Library's Michigan Vital Records.

Special Collections

Major Research Collections

Collections at the Library include the *Civil War Unit Histories Series*, *The Draper Manuscript Collection*, *Indian Claims Commission*, *Papers of Anti-Bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War*, and *Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th Century*, *Papers and Diaries*.

Manuscript Collection

The Library has microfilmed over 400 boxes of unpublished genealogical materials. Manuscript materials are housed in the Rare Book Collection and in the Microfilm Collection on the second floor.

Michigan Project Files

The Library has microfiche indexes to the *Michigan Centennial* and *Sesquicentennial Project Files*. The indexes include 18,000 applications from persons proving relationship to ancestors living in Michigan prior to 1838 and 1877. Additionally, the *Surname Index* lists 100,000 surnames submitted by 1,000 Michigan genealogical society members.

Michigan Pioneer Records

Indexed volumes of 3,200 data sheets submitted by researchers listing persons living in Michigan prior to 1880 are bound in 38 volumes. An index is available in the Microfiche Collection on the second floor.